

Abstract

The use of sesquiterpenes and, in particular sesquiterpene lactone endoperoxides, such as artemisinin and analogs thereof, for the treatment of hepatitis C virus infections. Artemisinin, analogs of artemisinin and some crude *Artemisia* extracts were tested *in vitro* against DNA-viruses, retro-viruses and *Flavivirida*, (an important family of human and animal RNA pathogens). These compounds were also screened for anti-tumor activity. Strong activity of artemisinin was noticed against the bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV). As pestiviruses, such as BVDV, share many similarities with hepatitis C virus (HCV), we can conclude that endoperoxides in general and artemisinin more specifically have efficacy as treatments for hepatitis C viral infections.